

gallery. He helped lead Native American artwork into the mainstream conversations and consciousness of all Americans. And he explored the world around him, from artwork to cooking, from history to politics, all the while staying true to his roots.

R.C. was very close to my family. I knew him since I was a young boy, and he was a dear friend to both my mother and father. During a drawn out legal battle over health concerns being suffered by Navajo uranium miners, the legal team was being burdened by mounting costs. R.C., in his typical selfless style, donated two pieces of artwork to assist the cause. Both pieces were auctioned off and the proceeds were used to help pay down the legal fees. It was characteristic of him to provide anything and everything to help others and to do so without fanfare and without self-congratulations, but rather with humility and respect. And it is that personal side of R.C. that will be forever ingrained in our memories.

We will always be grateful for the way in which he used the canvas with grace and the way in which he helped us see so much beauty in places we once overlooked. R.C. will be greatly missed, but his spirit will live on.

#### IN HONOR OF SISTER JULIE HYER

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Julie Hyer, as she has recently celebrated 20 years as President of Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, California. Since 1985, Sister Julie has enlivened and inspired those affiliated with Dominican Hospital and the community at large with her leadership in ways that are practical and profound.

Before coming to Santa Cruz, Sister Julie served at the Mercy Healthcare Corporation in Farmington, Michigan. There, she served for 11 years beginning as a hospital coding clerk in 1974 and ascending to Associate Director of Medical Affairs at the corporate level. Sister Julie has an MBA in Finance from the University of Detroit, BS in Medical Record Administration from Mercy College in Detroit, and a BA in Mathematics from Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan.

Dominican Hospital is a non-profit community hospital located in Santa Cruz, sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. As President of Dominican Hospital, Sister Julie oversees acute care, inpatient and outpatient services, four subsidiary corporations, two congregate living facilities totaling 356 apartments, and other multiple joint ventures. She also serves as a member of many corporate-wide initiatives and committees.

Mr. Speaker, the service of local community leaders is an asset to this Nation, and I applaud Sister Julie for her significant contribution. The 20 year anniversary of Sister Julie's presidency signifies a fruitful career of improving the health of the community through her core values of dignity, excellence, collaboration, justice, and stewardship. It is clear that Sister Julie has made a lasting impact on our community and I join Dominican Hospital in honoring her tenure.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I missed a roll-call vote on the night of Wednesday November 9, 2005. I would like to enter into the RECORD how I intended to vote on the missed rollcall:

On rollcall No. 582 regarding S. 1894, the Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005, I would have voted "yea."

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, from the dawn of civilization, man has peered out into the heavens and dreamt of exploring the vast expanses of our universe. During the past half century, from America's first satellite, the grapefruit-sized Explorer I, to the International Space Station now being built 200 miles above us, human beings have begun to learn how to operate in the harsh environs of space.

Our unmanned space probes—from the Ranger and Surveyor craft that paved the way for Apollo to the Voyager spacecraft that explored the outer planets—continue to increase our understanding of the universe. Everyone of the ambitious American space probes that has visited another planet has been managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

It is for this reason, I am proud that the conference report covering NASA operations includes full support of the work of JPL on the Mars exploration program and the Space Interferometry Mission.

NASA's Mars exploration program embodies the President's vision for space exploration. It will expand our knowledge of one of our neighbors in the solar system and pave the way for a manned mission to Mars. NASA's search for planets and life beyond our solar system is also having increasing and dramatic success with more than 150 planets now discovered. With full funding, the Space Interferometry Mission will examine over two thousand stars for planetary systems, fulfilling a critical step in the search for Earth-like planets.

For their strong support of this vision, I would like to thank Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member OBEY. I would also like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member MOLLOHAN for meeting on several occasions to discuss the important work of JPL.

In addition to expanding our reach into the depths of the universe, the space research program at JPL will have additional benefits here on Earth. According to economists, investment in research and development has one of the highest rates of return in the long-run. While public investment in research and development in other nations has increased in

recent years, it has stagnated in the United States. Full funding for the work at JPL demonstrates our continuing commitment to research in the sciences.

The space exploration program also has an impact on young people. Generations of students have been inspired to enter scientific fields by stunning images from the heavens. The funding for cooperative education programs between NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Griffith Observatory recognizes the importance of encouraging more students to enter scientific fields.

With our commitment to the programs at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, we are pursuing both the human quest to understand our universe and the American quest for continuing leadership in space exploration.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MCCANDLESS TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past fifty years the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority has provided service to 52,000 customers in Bradford Woods Borough, the Borough of Franklin Park, Marshall Township, Pine Township, the Town of McCandless and boundaries of Hampton and Ross Townships. Their customers vary from residential and commercial facilities to schools, colleges, and hospitals. The authority owns and operates a comprehensive sanitary sewer system that includes four treatment plants, and sixteen pumping stations.

To celebrate their 50 years of great service, the authority will commemorate the anniversary on December 17, 2005 as part of the annual Christmas Dinner at Highland Country Club.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated institution as the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority.

#### RECOGNIZING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Flower Mound High School speech and debate team for being recognized as 13th out of the top 50 speech and debate teams in the country.

The ranking was announced by the National Forensic League on Oct. 22, 2005. The National Forensic League is comprised of 103

districts that govern the affiliate and charter schools in all 50 states. The purpose of the National Forensic League is to promote inter-scholastic debate, oratory, public speaking, and interpretation of literature by encouraging a spirit of fellowship and by conferring upon deserving candidates a worthy badge of distinction. The National Forensic League works to accomplish this mission by promoting debate and speech through a nation-wide network of competitive tournaments and by honoring students for their achievements. The culmination of the year is a National Speech and Debate Tournament in the month of June. This year's topic will be whether or not the U.S. government should reduce its authority to detain without charges or search without probable cause.

The Flower Mound High School speech and debate team has 25 students traveling during weekends from speech to debate tournaments. At Flower Mound High School, each member of the speech and debate team is guaranteed to compete in at least five rounds per year. If a student performs well, he or she can enter additional tournaments. Students are awarded a degree of merit for each round they compete in, which then gets accumulated by the team. Flower Mound was the 13th team nationwide with the most accumulated degrees of merit.

Today I congratulate the Flower Mound High School speech and debate team and Head Debate Coach, Eric Mears, on ranking 13th out of the top 50 speech and debate teams in the country. Their dedication and hard work in perpetuating intellectual debate, oratory and public speaking deserves the highest recognition and praise.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862, SCIENCE STATE, JUSTICE, COM- MERCE, AND RELATED AGEN- CIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, this week, the House of Representatives passed the conference report to H.R. 2862, the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill on a vote of 397-19.

I voted for this conference report because it provides funding for important law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Justice, and the Drug Enforcement Agency. However, I was reluctant to support this conference report during final passage because I was extremely disappointed and concerned that this legislation drastically cuts funds for the Community Oriented Policing Services program, or COPS program, and subsequently eliminates all federal funding for the hiring of police officers. The passage of this conference report has placed an undue burden on local law enforcement's ability to ensure the safety and security of our communities and our families.

H.R. 2862 contains only \$478 million in funding for COPS, which is \$120 million less than last year's funding level. When the House first considered H.R. 2862 on June 14, 2005, I supported an amendment offered by Con-

gressman OBEY to increase the COPS funding level to \$666 million. Unfortunately, the House chose to put our law enforcement and the safety of our street and communities at risk by rejecting the amendment.

This conference report contains only \$416 million for the Byrne Discretionary and Justice Assistance Grant Programs, also known as Byrne-JAG grants. This is \$386 million less than the FY '05 amount of \$792 million. Byrne-JAG grants provide vital funding for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, anti-drug education programs, treatment programs, long-range corrections and sentencing strategy programs, anti-terrorism training programs, and for the enforcement of child abuse and neglect laws, and the improvement the criminal justice systems' response to domestic and family abuse. When the House first considered H.R. 2862, I offered a bipartisan amendment to increase Byrne-JAG grants funding, but unfortunately, my amendment failed to garner enough votes.

As a former Escanaba city police officer and Michigan State Trooper as well as co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I understand how much our local communities need and rely on COPS and Byrne-JAG grant program monies. Post-9/11, our Nation's public safety officers are faced with more challenges than ever before in performing their duties, and we must do everything in our power to support their effort. We should be providing public safety officers with the resources necessary to keep our communities safe from both terrorist threats and daily crime, and unfortunately this conference report short-changes these men and women who protect and serve our Nation.

#### COMMENDING EFFORTS OF CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDA- TION OF AMERICA

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in fighting Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Today, the Foundation will visit Capitol Hill and ask for our support of H.R. 3616—The Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Act.

Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract that afflict approximately 1.4 million Americans, 30 percent of whom are diagnosed in their childhood years. IBD represents a major cause of morbidity from digestive illness and has a devastating impact on both patients and families. The cause is unknown, and there is no medical cure.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the bipartisan Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Act that I'm sponsoring with the gentleman from Illinois, JESSE JACKSON, Jr. The IBD Research Act builds upon legislation we sponsored last Congress, which garnered 183 cosponsors. This Congress—we look forward to even more support. Together we can help millions of children and adults that suffer from these devastating diseases.

#### BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION INTRO- DUCED TO HELP INCREASE EQ- UITY INVESTMENT IN SMALL BUSINESSES LOCATED IN LOW- INCOME AREAS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation along with my colleague from Kentucky, Congressman HAROLD "HAL" ROGERS, which seeks to increase venture capital investment in small businesses located in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. Our bill, the Securing Equity for the Economic Development of Low Income Areas—SEED—Act, would reauthorize and expand the New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) program of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The New Markets Venture Capital Program was established in 2000 for the purposes of making equity investments in small businesses located in economically distressed communities through the creation of NMVC companies. Many conventional venture capital firms have been unwilling to invest in economically disadvantaged areas. NMVC companies aim to help fill the access to capital gap that exists for many small firms in these communities.

New Market Venture Capital companies will leverage equity capital backed by SBA-guaranteed funds to invest in small businesses in depressed areas. NMVC companies can also apply for matching operational assistance grants to provide entrepreneurs with the services and technical support needed to help their businesses grow and succeed.

Through the program, 6 New Markets Venture Capital companies have been formed and are currently still operating and making quality investments in small businesses throughout the country. For example, the Southern Appalachian Fund located in Congressman ROGERS' Congressional District was one of the original New Markets Venture Capital companies established during the initial round of funding. The Southern Appalachian Fund (SAF) is a \$12.5 million venture capital fund offering equity capital and operational assistance to eligible small businesses located in the Appalachia regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. In 2004 alone, SAF invested over \$1 million in three companies, which helped attract an additional \$1.7 million in venture capital funding for these firms. As a result, these investments assisted in the creation of over 50 new jobs in the region.

Unfortunately, though authorized, this worthy program has not received funding in each of the last 3 fiscal years. The SEED Act would reauthorize the New Markets Venture Capital program by providing \$100 million in debt-guarantees and \$25 million in operational assistance grants to fund the creation of a fresh round of NMVC companies. In addition, our legislation would incorporate small manufacturers into the mission of the program by encouraging the SBA to set up at least one company that is primarily involved in the investment and development of small manufacturing firms. The bill also seeks to diversify venture capital investments beyond the typical Silicon Valley and Northeastern corridors by